

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF
FOX RIVER GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.
FOX RIVER GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board President Pat Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain and Susan McGarrigle. Also present were Superintendent Tim Mahaffy and Principals Karen Machroli and Eric Runck. Absent was Board member Tom Mollet.

WELCOME GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Board President Pat Hughes welcomed audience members Elisa Buss and Steve Pickering to the meeting. Ms. Machroli introduced Kindergarten teacher, Beth Diller and Mr. Runck introduced MS teachers, Norene Carr and Shirley Slater.

Norene Carr, on behalf of the 5th grade team (Jane Szybowicz and Steve Ostergaard) briefly described their positive rewards program. Students have a punch card and once they receive 20 punches, cards can be redeemed for rewards. The homeroom teacher also keeps a running list with student totals. All classroom rewards are cost free. Some examples include sitting with a friend pass, no homework pass, and eating lunch with your teacher. Students can receive punches based on a variety of options including helping without being asked, trying hard, peer tutoring and so on. The students and teachers are very excited about this positive rewards program.

No one signed in to address the Board and there were no comments from any other visitors or guests.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Gerry Blohm to approve the consent agenda, approve and open to the public the regular minutes of the regular Board meeting of January 26, 2009, approve the closed minutes of the regular Board meeting of January 26, 2009, approve the January 2009 Treasurer's Report, approve the February 2009 Bills and Payroll and approve the January 2009 Activity Accounts Report. Kris Germain seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle, and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Mahaffy, along with Building and Site Committee members Steve Knar and Gerry Blohm, discussed their recommendations regarding the feasibility study made by Chevron using their buying power, architectural fees, and overall control of a project(s). Chevron's main focus is energy conservation. There was a kickoff meeting with Chevron in December followed by a tour of the buildings with Rick Miller. After the tours, Chevron presented District 3 recommendations on what they would suggest being done to the buildings for up to \$1.7 million.

The Board at this time needs to make a decision whether to do nothing, do what is absolutely necessary within the Capital Outlay Plan and revise the plan as needed through the summer maintenance program, and/or get an architect's opinion on the needed projects and put it out to bid. Chevron is looking at doing the complete package; not one or two items on the list.

The roof at ARS and the flooring continue to be on-going issues. The stripping of the floors each summer is very time consuming. Many of the windows are single pane and do let cold air in. Outside doors could also be replaced. If all these projects are to be accomplished at one time, perhaps Chevron is the way to go.

Board member Knar reviewed the parts of the ARS roof that need immediate repair. The original roof was done in 1964 with the addition of a membrane over this roof in 1985. This roof has no pitch and is completely flat. This membrane is now beginning to leak in various areas. There are only 4 or 5 gutters for this portion of the roof. Whenever it snows, the roof needs to be shoveled to eliminate leaking. Mr. Knar further stated that the updating of our facilities is necessary and now is the time to accomplish this. He stated that the District has the down payment from FY09 and the balance from issuing previous debt. The debt service then would be paid out of FY10 operating budget. In FY11, we could increase the bond levy without going to the taxpayers.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that we cannot increase the bond levy. Our debt capacity is \$6.1 million. This can only be accessed by going to the voters. The District does not have any debt service extension. Debt certificates sit in your operating funds and are pledged against those operating funds until they are paid off. The District also can hold a hearing to raise the rates back up to your debt extension limit without going to a referendum.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that if the District chose to do the roof, we would need to put it out to bid, contact our architect and go from there.

Board member Gerry Blohm stated that facilities director, Rick Miller, will continue to patch, shovel the snow and clean drains as long as it works. He could also possibly dedicate his summer time to putting some form of a sump pump system on the roof. However, this will not eliminate the roof problems and the leaking. Something needs to be done soon while we still have some money in O&M to do it.

Board President Pat Hughes would like Dr. Mahaffy to contact our architect Terry Ernst and get his opinion on the project.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that since Chevron is an energy conservation corporation working with schools to pay back energy without going to a formal bid process (School Code 19B).

Mr. Knar stated again that it does not cost the District anything to go to the RFP (Request for Proposal) process. Chevron has the people to come up with the best solution to save energy.

Board President Pat Hughes does not have a problem with the RFP process as long as we receive competitive bids. In this short time period it will be interesting to see how many bids we receive. Mr. Hughes stated that he just wants options – not just Chevron – he does not want a sole source option. He wants to see individual pricing. He does feel Chevron will do an excellent job, but at a premium. This is why he wants to see what architect Terry Ernst says. He does not want to see something and have to decide in two weeks. He stated that he felt pressured.

Board member Knar stated that all he wants now is the RFP. Mr. Knar stated that he feels that everyone is overwhelmed by the number. This is an investment in our schools.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that at the March 16th Board meeting, the Board would approve or not approve Resolution I to go to RFP. Two weeks after that, Chevron and any other companies could submit a proposal to the District. At a special meeting in March the Board would pass a Resolution 2 formally selecting or not selecting anyone to provide the service. No resolution will be approved at this February meeting. The RFP is the bid document. The proposal will stipulate what the projects are, the anticipated energy savings measurements/actual savings over the following years and a proposed project calendar. At the April 27th Board meeting a vendor will be chosen or the District can proceed on its own.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that he only needs direction from the Board on where they want to go next.

Board President Pat Hughes stated again that he feels pressured and does not have enough options in front of him. He further stated that he agrees with the roof, windows, doors, and flooring, but does not agree with the process. Chevron is the only option on the table.

Board member Lisa Anderson questioned the advertising of the RFP. She also questioned whether or not all proposed repairs need to be done at this time and how the financing would fall into place for these projects.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that a debt certificate can be issued at anytime. The other option is for the District to access a non-referendum bond under the debt service extension base.

Board President Pat Hughes stated that he appreciated Steve Knar and Gerry Blohm's efforts in bringing back to the Board the list of projects and priorities. Mr. Hughes recommended calling our architect. The financial package and options, both short term and long term, still need to be reviewed more thoroughly based on how much work the Board decides to do. Mr. Hughes felt that the Board does not exactly know what they want to do at this time – roof, flooring, windows and doors. He stated the Board may need to have a few more meetings before going to an RFP. This is a big financial decision.

Board member Steve Knar restated that proceeding with the RFP does not commit the District to anything. The roof and flooring need to be addressed at ARS.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that any information he receives from Chevron prior to the March Board meeting will be forwarded to the Board.

Dr. Mahaffy shared preliminary data on class sizes for the 2009-2010 school year (09-02-01). The quantity of class sections at each grade level was discussed. The Board does not want to RIF (reduction in force) any teachers, but they do have a financial responsibility to the community. The Board and the Administration will review various options and report back at the March Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Mahaffy reminded the Board that back in the fall it was decided to no longer use the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and to investigate a new assessment system. The Administration is recommending MAP (Measurement of Academic Progress) as a replacement for ITBS (09-02-02). MAP ties in more closely with RTI. Norm data still will be available but assessments can be done three times a year. This test is adaptive to every student regardless of their skills and will continue to challenge the student. Various school districts in the area are currently using this standardized assessment (Cary, Prairie Grove, Barrington, Huntley and Lake Zurich). Teachers can access this data for evaluating goals for students.

A motion to approve MAP (Measurement of Academic Progress) as a new standardized assessment for FY10 was made by Susan McGarrigle and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle, Lisa Anderson and Steve Knar. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

Board President Pat Hughes amended the above motion to include both math and science in the FY10 MAP assessment program. Susan McGarrigle agreed to the amended motion which was seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle, Lisa Anderson and Steve Knar. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

Dr. Mahaffy summarized the 2009-2010 school calendar that was recommended by the Calendar and Inservice Committee (09-02-03). There are two major differences – Veteran's Day would now be a student attendance day and November 3rd (voting day) would be a teacher institute day. The first day of school would be a half day beginning on Wednesday, August 26th. The last day of school would be Friday, June 4th if no snow days are used. The Board discussed whether to change Casimir Pulaski's birthday as an attendance day since Fox River Grove is one of the few schools in the area not in attendance that day. Dr. Mahaffy stated that he will get a waiver from the State to renew Lincoln's birthday, Veteran's Day and Casimir Pulaski's birthday in case the Board decides school should be in session. These waivers are good for five years.

A motion to approve the 2009-2010 school calendar with the adjustment that Casmir Pulaski be a regular school attendance day was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson and Steve Knar. Voting nay – Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle and Pat Hughes. Motion did not pass.

A motion to approve the 2009-2010 school calendar as recommended with Casmir Pulaski being a non attendance day was made by Gerry Blohm and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle, Pat Hughes and Gerry Blohm. Voting nay – Lisa Anderson and Steve Knar. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the 2009-2010 Mathematics Textbook Adoption as presented was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Susan McGarrigle (09-02-04). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Susan McGarrigle, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm and Kris Germain. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

There were no new volunteer coaches to approve at this time. Mr. Runck stated that a head coach for softball is needed.

Dr. Mahaffy stated that bus information will be brought to the March Board meeting.

There was no other New Business.

POLICY

A motion to approve the second reading and adoption of the following revised Policies – Policy 4:105 – 403(b) Tax Sheltered Account (TSA) Programs, 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:120 – Education of Children with Disabilities, 6:230 – Library Media Program, 7:10 – Equal Educational Opportunities, 7:20 – Harassment of Students Prohibited, 7:50 – School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools, 7:100 – Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students, 7:210 – Expulsion Procedures, 7:240 – Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities and 7:300 – Extracurricular Athletics was made by Kris Germain and seconded by Susan McGarrigle (09-02-05). A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain and Susan McGarrigle. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Algonquin Road School – Ms. Machroli – Voting will be held in the art room tomorrow, February 24th. There will be indoor recess that day. The mother/son skate date night will be held on Saturday, February 28th. For the 100th day of school there was a food drive and a total of 825 items were collected. Kindergarten student Lily Monroy won the fire engine ride to school for being selected from students who turned in their sheet on “how to help others”. This ride was arranged by Mrs. MaryLou Nunamaker. The St. Jude Math-a-Thon is underway. The 4th graders did an excellent job during the Lincoln Assembly. ISAT testing begins on Tuesday, March 3rd.

Fox River Grove Middle School – Mr. Runck – A thank you letter regarding the sock drive held during Red Ribbon Week was read. Former student, Mike Zasadil, read his speech that he presented at the Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference in Washington. The middle school students seemed to enjoy the speech and did ask Mike a few questions. Fifth grade student, Ireland Lockhart, came in first place in an essay contest entitled “What Freedom Means to Me” and then came in 3rd in the District winning a \$250 savings bond. This contest was sponsored by the Elk’s Club. She also read her essay to the entire student body during the Lincoln Assembly. Play tryouts begin on February 24th. The 8th graders will take the NAEP test on the 25th. The 3rd quarter mid-term reports will be sent home on the 27th followed by ISAT testing beginning on March 3rd. The volleyball tournament begins on March 9th. Field trips include the 7th grade going to the Naper Settlement and 5th grade going to CGHS to see a musical on March 11th. The climbing wall will begin on March 30th and be at the MS through April 3rd.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Mahaffy stated that School District 3 received the 2009 School Search “Bright Red Apple” Award. Criteria for this award is based upon the primary area of concern of relocating families – information on the school’s academic performance, teacher-pupil ratio, expenditure per pupil, educational level of teachers and average salary. District 3 was one of 81 schools in the State who received this award out of 868 school districts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Review of the Chevron Feasibility Study was covered under Old Business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

There was a nice article in the Northwest Herald on February 8, 2008 regarding the Solo and Ensemble Festival held at Cary Junior High School. Congratulations to our band director, Mrs. JoAnn Limpus on a job well done.

Board President Pat Hughes asked if there was any other business before going to Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:25 p.m. to consider information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District was made by Gerry Blohm and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Steve Knar, Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle, and Lisa Anderson. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

There will be action.

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to return from executive session to open session at 10:05 p.m. was made by Steve Knar and seconded by Lisa Anderson. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Pat Hughes, Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle, Lisa Anderson, and Steve Knar. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

A motion to approve unpaid maternity leave for Kim Neilson, with the unpaid leave equaling 4 days plus any additional sick or personal days used in FY09 was made by Lisa Anderson and seconded by Kris Germain. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye – Gerry Blohm, Kris Germain, Susan McGarrigle, Lisa Anderson, Steve Knar and Pat Hughes. Voting nay – none. Motion approved.

Board President Pat Hughes asked if there were any other comments and there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m. was made by Susan McGarrigle and seconded by Steve Knar. A voice vote was taken. Voting aye – All ayes. Voting nay – None. Motion approved.

Patrick B. Hughes
President
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lois M. Bowman
Secretary
BOARD OF EDUCATION